

1           1.    A method comprising:  
2                wirelessly linking a plurality of customers  
3    within a retail facility through a local area network based  
4    in the retail facility; and  
5                enabling customers to exchange information  
6    through said network.

1           2.    The method of claim 1 wherein wirelessly linking  
2    includes providing wireless access to a server by a  
3    plurality of customers within a retail facility.

1           3.    The method of claim 1 including providing a  
2    processor-based device to retail customers that wirelessly  
3    communicates with said server.

1           4.    The method of claim 3 including enabling users to  
2    activate said device by swiping a credit card through a  
3    slot in said device.

1           5.    The method of claim 1 including receiving audible  
2    communications from said customers.

1           6.    The method of claim 1 including enabling  
2    customers to communicate via text messages with one another  
3    over said network.

1           7.    The method of claim 1 including pushing  
2   electronic files to customers.

1           8.    The method of claim 1 including providing  
2   information about the current location of a processor-based  
3   device associated with a customer.

1           9.    The method of claim 8 including providing  
2   information about the customer's location to the server.

1           10.   The method of claim 9 including pushing  
2   information to the customer depending on the customer's  
3   current location.

1           11.   An article comprising a medium storing  
2   instructions that enable a processor-based system to:  
3                wirelessly link a plurality of customers within a  
4   retail facility through a local area network based in the  
5   retail facility; and  
6                enable customers to exchange information through  
7   said network.

1           12.   An article of claim 11 further storing  
2   instructions that enable the processor-based system to be  
3   accessed wirelessly by a plurality of customers within a  
4   retail facility.

1           13. The article of claim 11 further storing  
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to  
3 recognize a processor-based device used by a customer in  
4 response to a credit card swipe through a slot in said  
5 device.

6           14. The article of claim 11 further storing  
7 instructions that enable the processor-based system to  
8 receive audible communications from said customers.

9           15. The article of claim 14 further storing  
10 instructions that enable the processor-based system to  
11 broadcast audio files to said customers.

12           16. The article of claim 11 further storing  
13 instructions that enable the processor-based system to  
14 enable customers to communicate via text messages with one  
15 another over said network.

16           17. The article of claim 11 further storing  
17 instructions that enable the processor-based system to push  
18 electronic files to customers.

19           18. The article of claim 11 further storing  
20 instructions that enable the processor-based system to

21 provide information about the current location of a  
22 processor-based device associated with a customer.

1 19. The article of 18 further storing instructions  
2 that enable the processor-based system to determine the  
3 customer's location.

1 20. The article of claim 19 further storing  
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to push  
3 information to a customer depending on the customer's  
4 current location.

1 21. A system comprising:  
2 a processor; and  
3 a storage coupled to said processor to wirelessly  
4 link a plurality of customers within a retail facility  
5 through a local area network based in the retail facility  
6 and enable customers to exchange information through said  
7 network.

1 22. The system of claim 21 wherein said system is a  
2 server.

1 23. The system of claim 22 wherein said server is  
2 coupled to a wireless interface.

1           24. The system of claim 21 wherein said system  
2 maintains a network of wireless, processor-based devices  
3 used by customers.

1           25. The system of claim 24 wherein said system  
2 recognizes said processor-based device in response to the  
3 detection of a credit card swipe through a slot in one of  
4 said devices.